Matters of Interest to Mexican Veterans.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 1876.

The meeting of officers of the National Association, called in accordance with a resolution passed by the convention of 1875, was held in Washington city, on the 22d of February, 1876, President Denver in the chair. The officers from thirty-one States and territories, (including the representatives of the army and navy) were present in person or by proxy.

THE SELECTION OF AN ORATOR

For the meeting to to be held on the 4th day of July, at Philadelphia, was the first business in order. The committee appointed for that purpose at the last annual meeting reported that they were not prepared to make a nomination, but that the chairman, Judge J. J. Martin, of Alabama, had communicated with Gen. Robert Patterson, of Pennsylvania, and Gen. George W. Morgan, of Ohio, and both of the gentlemen had declined the honor. The correspondence was read, and the reason given by the first was on account of his age; and, as alleged by the committee, the latter declined on account of his modesty

On motion of Mr. Nutman, of New Jersey, the convention went into committee of the whole to nominate an orator, with the understanding that from the three nominees receiving the largest number of votes one should be selected by the president to deliver the oration.

The following named gentlemen received the highest number of votes: Gen. George E. Pugh, of Ohio; Gen. Albert Pike, of Arkansas, and H. S. Lane, of Indiana. The committee rose and its action was confirmed by the convention.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Col. Wm. Louis Schley, of Maryland, addressed the meeting, showing the importance of having an active, energetic committee in charge of the general arrangements of the meeting to be held in Philadelphia, during the centennial celebration, and moved that the President be authorized to appoint said committee. Adopted.

The President announced the following as the committee:

Col. Wm. Louis Schley, chairman, (P. O. Box 519 Baltimore, Maryland; Col. Joseph H. Ruddach, Baltimore; Gen. Oden Bowie, Baltimore; Wm. J. Mackey, Philadelphia; Col. Robert Klotz, Mauch Chunk, Pa.

REPORT OF FINANCES.

Captain S. V. Niles, Treasurer, and member of Finance Committee, made a report for the year past, showing receipts from assessments by the Finance Committee, &c., as follows: Total receipts $516 21; including $100 from Indiana; $50 from South Carolina; $25 from Rhode Island; $25 from Nevada; $7.25 from West Virginia; $50 from New York; $30 from Pennsylvania; $18.10 from Oregon; $10 from Illinois; $25 from Iowa; $25 from Colorado; $100 from Maryland; and $18 40 from Minnesota. Expenditures to date, $416.65. Balance in hand of Treasurer, $99 56. A number of unpaid bills outstanding. The whole amount asked for by the Finance Committee was $2 075, but many of the States had been unable to respond.

THE MEDAL-BADGES.

President Denver, from the committee appointed to prepare and distribute the medal badges in accordance with the design adopted by the National Convention, reported the means adopted to enable them to fulfill their duties. It was deemed important to have this insignia of membership distributed before the meeting in Philadelphia, in order to distinguish members from imposters who would be likely to assume the character of veterans for the sake of obtaining privileges from railroad companies and the centennial authorities at Philadelphia; who, perhaps, would cheerfully extend courtesies to veterans if there was any way to distinguish them. The committee had made arrangements with the director of the Mint to have the die engraved and the medals struck in that establishment, and had petitioned the President of the United States for a donation of captured cannon in aid of the enterprise, which was promptly granted. The whole work of casting the medals and amalgamation of the material was left to the superintendent and coiner of the Mint, who are presumed to understand their business better than the committee, who are not skilled in the science of metallurgy.

The other work and the labor of distribution, printing, clerical labor, etc., was estimated to cost $2 to each applicant who could show by a clear statement of service he was entitled to wear the badge.

A member representing an association in New York, moved that his society be allowed to take such number of the medals as they may desire, at the Mint cost, and have the privilege of embellishing them in their own way at New York city, where the engraving, &c., could be done cheaper and better. The mover took the occasion to indulge in some personal reflections on the motives of the committee, and the manner in which they were doing the work.

Secretary Kenaday stated that this proposition had been before made to the committee, who had, after due consideration, declined to accede to it on the ground that the badge was the insignia of membership in the National Association, and while every soldier or sailor of the Mexican War, in local organizations, could be supplied on application and compliance with the rules adopted, it was necessary that his *title to the badge* should be a matter of record and reference in the National Association, to avoid imposture. If an exception were made in favor of this society (which embraces a very limited membership—most of the gallant New York veterans who served in Mexico having withdrawn from it, it is stated) the result would be that every other association in the union would have just cause of complaint, and there would be no general record of survivors anywhere.

The value of the badge as a memento of service, consisted in its emanating *from a source having proper authority to send it*, and it had been patented under the laws of the United States by the inventor, to protect the association against spurious imitations. The committee had used their best judgment in the matter, with the hope of general approval, and the most flattering testimonials to their zeal and energy under adverse circumstances, had been received from gentlemen whose names are historical, residing in all parts of our common country. The exceptions were mostly confined to one or two individuals of this so-called "New York" association (who did not, however, represent that State in Mexico.) who have been chronic fault-finders with everything done by the officers from the beginning—fomenting discord and endeavoring to throw obstacles, in their feeble way, to the onward march of the vast column of survivors who have joined the National Organization and sustain it by their cheerful contributions, or good words at least. The Secretary did not propose to halt in his progress and go down to their brain level to ascertain the motives of these growlers

Considerable discussion ensued, resulting in the almost unanimous endorsement of the entire action of the Badge Committee in every particular.

RAILROAD FARES.

The Secretary read the correspondence had with railroad companies relative to transportation of veterans to and from the Centennial, which was referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

HOTEL AT ENCAMPMENT GROUNDS.

The Secretary also reported that, with a view to aid the Committee of Arrangements in their labors, (the convention of last year not having delegated power to any one to make definite arrangements.) he had solicited parties to be ready with proposals when the delegates assembled, and that Col. James Pierce, proprietor of the Imperial Hotel in this city, had submitted an agreement to go to Philadelphia and erect on the encampment grounds to be set apart for the veterans, a mammoth canvas tent for hotel purposes, in which he would furnish meals to recognized members of the association at the moderate rate of ONE DOLLAR PER DAY for each man, and will furnish as good food as can be had in the market. His bill of fare to be as follows:

BREAKFAST.—Fish, beefsteak, mutton chops, liver and bacon, veal cutlets, sausage, ham and eggs, fried potatoes, baked potatoes, bread, tea and coffee.

DINNER.—Soup or chowder, fish; *Roast.*—Beef, veal, mutton; *Boiled.*—Tongue, cornbeef and ham; *Vegetables.*—Potatoes, cabbage, rice, succotash, beans, pickles, &c. *Pastry.*—Puddings, pies, &c.

SUPPER.—Cold meats, beef steak, veal cutlets, fried potatoes, tea biscuits, plain bread, crackers, tea and coffee.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE PENDING BILL IN THE HOUSE.

In the early part of February, President Denver and Secretary Kenaday called on the Hon. G. W. Hewitt, by invitation, and submitted such statistics as had been collected at the headquarters of the association in support of the memorial before Congress.

On the 24th of February, Hon. Goldsmith W. Hewitt of Alabama, from the Committee of Invalid Pensions, reported the following bill, with a favorable report, substantially the same as that made by the minority of the committee of last session, which was published in our proceedings of the convention of February 22, 1875, on pages 15 and 16.

A bill granting pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the Mexican, Florida, and the Black Hawk wars, and certain widows of deceased soldiers and sailors of the same.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House, &c., That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension-roll the names of the surviving officers and enlisted men, including militia and volunteers of the military and naval services of the United States, who served sixty days in the war of eighteen hundred and forty-six with Mexico, or in the Florida war or in the Black Hawk war thirty days, and were honorable discharged, and to such other officers and soldiers and sailors as may have been personally named in any resolution of Congress for any specific service in said war, although their term of service may have been less than sixty days, and who shall subscribe an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted men as were married prior to the discharge of such officers and enlisted men: *Provided*, That such widows shall not have remarried.

SEC. 2. That this act shall not apply to any person who is receiving a pension at the rate of eight dollars or more per month, nor to any person receiving a pension less than eight dollars per month, except for the difference between the pension now received and eight dollars per month. Pensions under this act shall be at the rate of eight dollars per month, except as herein provided when a person is receiving a pension of less than eight dollars per month, and shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto from and after the passage of this act, for and during the term of their natural lives.

SEC. 3. That before the name of any person shall be placed on the pension-roll under this act, proof shall be made, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, that the applicant is entitled to a pension under the provisions of this act; and any person who shall falsely take any oath required to be taken under the provisions of this act shall be guilty of perjury; and the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be stricken from the pension-roll the name of any person whenever it shall appear, by proof satisfactory to him, that such name was put upon such roll through false and fraudulent representations as to the right of such person to a pension under the provisions of this act. The loss of certificate shall not deprive the applicant of the benefits of this act, but other proof of services performed and of an honorable discharge shall be deemed sufficient.

SEC. 4. That the provisions of sections twelve and thirteen of the act entitled "An act supplementary to 'An act to grant pensions,'" passed July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and of sections two, three, and four of the act entitled "An act supplementary to several acts relating to pensions," approved June sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, shall be applicable to the pensions granted by this act; but no law now in existence which in any way conflicts with the provisions of this act shall be applicable to the survivors of the wars above mentioned, or be so construed as to deprive them of the benefits of this act.

SEC. 5. That this act shall not apply to persons under political disabilities.

Read twice, committed to the committee of the whole, and ordered to be printed.

The members of the committee are Messrs. George A. Jenks, Pennsylvania; John C. Bagby, Illinois; Benjamin Wilson, West Virginia; A. M. Bliss, New York; G. W. Hewitt, Alabama; A. V. Rice, Ohio; Jesse J. Yeates, North Carolina; Jeremiah M. Rusk, Wisconsin; Clement H. Sinnickson, New Jersey; W. J. Purman, Florida; and J. H. Rainey, South Carolina.

3 MONTHS' EXTRA PAY.

On the 13th of March, Hon. H. T. Riddle of Tennessee, introduced the following bill, which is before the Committee on Military Affairs:

A Bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to officers and soldiers engaged in the war with Mexico the three months' extra pay provided for by the act of July nineteenth, eighteen hundred and forty-eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House, &c., That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay to officers and soldiers "engaged in the military service of the United States in the war with Mexico, and who served out the time of their engagement or were honorably discharged," the three months' extra pay provided for by the act of July nineteenth, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, in all cases upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence that said extra compensation has not been previously received.

The act of July 19, 1848, (which was repealed in 1870) to which the foregoing bill refers, provides that officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, engaged in the military service of the United States, and who have served out the term of their engagement, or have been honorably discharged: And, first, to the widows; second, to the children; third to the parents, and fourth, to the brothers and sisters of such who have been killed in the battle, or who died in service, or who having been honorably discharged, have since died, or may hereafter die without receiving the three months' pay herein provided for, shall be entitled to receive three months' extra pay.

[I have no means of judging whether this just law will be revived at this session, but comrades who have not already received their three months' extra pay, or the widows or other heirs of deceased soldiers of the Mexican war, will be supplied with blank forms of application by applying to the undersigned, and authorizing him to file the claim. Those who were discharged *after* July 19, 1848, are supposed to have received their extra pay; but many of the volunteers discharged in 1846 and '47, have never made application, and will be entitled to the pay, if the bill passes.]

IMPORTANT TO THE SIX MONTHS VOLUNTEERS.

In the course of my experience, I have found a number of the volunteers who served under the first call for troops, and who were mustered out at the end of three months, who appear to be ignorant of the fact that the law of March 3, 1855, gave to them 120 acres additional to the 40 acres they received with their discharge. Those who have not applied for the additional warrant, should make early application, as the Department has recommended to limit the time at which such applications shall be received. Blank forms will be furnished to members on application to the undersigned.

THE MEDAL BADGES.

The delay in delivering the medal badges to applicants requires explanation. The circulars were not mailed to members until the Secretary saw the order of the director of the Mint written and mailed to the superintendent at Philadelphia, *to proceed at once with the work*. It was supposed that not more than a week would elapse before they would be ready for the workmen and engravers here in Washington, but information was received that it would take a month to fulfill the order. At the end of that time, it appeared they had misunderstood the design prepared by the committee, and the Mint authorities sent the medals without the cross-bar containing the name of the association. The die had to be cut for the cross-bar, and arrangements made with outside parties to cast these. The work is now in a fair way to supply members with very little delay.

ENCAMPMENT GROUNDS.

On the 17th of March, Colonel Wm. Louis Schley, chairman of Committee of Arrangements, wrote to me that he had received, in reply to his note of inquiry, a letter from By't. Brig. Gen. Lewis Merrill, Chief of the Military Staff of the Centennial Commissioners, stating that the camp ground for the National Association of Mexican War Veterans will be *free of charge* and within moderate distance of the Centennial grounds with easy access by railroad. The details of the ceremonies for the 4th of July are as yet undecided, but the association will not be forgotten when the programme is made up.

TRANSPORTATION.

Colonel Schley also writes: "Gov. Bowie will attend to transportation from Washington by the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad (of which he is President,) also to Philadelphia for the veterans here [Baltimore.] The committee will select Col. Pierce of the Imperial hotel, and are trying to see what privileges we can get for him. I take it for granted they will be liberal. * * Will go to Philadelphia as soon as permanent suggestions are received from General Hawley. He refers to us all applications received from Mexican war associations. Matters relating to transportation must be left to the officers of the National Association in the several States and to the local organizations, as the railroads have fixed that themselves. *Local bodies can do better than our committee can for their own members*, and they should not rely altogether on the committee, *but help themselves*. You had better let all matters relating to the meeting come to the committee. [The address of the committee is "Col. Wm. Louis Schley, chairman, &c., P. O Box 519, Baltimore, Md."]

[From Washington Republican, March 21.]

MEXICAN VETERANS.

Free Rides to the Centennial.

At the solicitation of Mr. A. M. Kenaday, Secretary of the National Association of Mexican War Veterans, Senator S. B. Maxey, of Texas jointly with Hon. J. W. Throckmorton, member of Congress from that State, made an earnest appeal to Col. Thomas A. Scott and the officers of the Texas Pacific Railway Company in behalf of the surviving veterans residing in Texas who may desire to visit the Centennial this year. In reply those gentlemen received the following letter from Vice President Frank S. Bond, dated Philadelphia, March 20, which will be gratifying news to the old soldiers, who will all be likely to receive similar favors from the managers of trunk lines:

Hon. S. B. Maxey and Hon. J. W. Throckmorton:

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your notes, dated 17th of March, with reference to the veterans of the Mexican war who are desirous of attending our Centennial celebration, and am happy to be able to inform you that on notice from you or from the president of the Texas Association, of the number of these veteran soldiers that intend visiting Philadelphia, and when they will pass over our lines that cars shall be placed at their disposal free of charge. I have assumed, of course, that the veterans will come on together in a body; but if such is not the intention, on a proper certificate of membership from the president of the Texas Association, passes will be furnished for all veteran soldiers of the Mexican war over our lines and return. We fully appreciate the fact that but for the valor of these old soldiers the country through which our line of road passes would now belong to a foreign power, and the directors and officers of our company are very glad of this opportunity of making recognition of their services.

Yours truly,

FRANK S. BOND, Vice Pres't.

A favorable reply to our appeal to the managers of the Central Pacific Railroad in California is daily looked for, as it was forwarded with recommendation from Vice President C. P. Huntington some time ago.

Col. O. R. Smith, V. P. of North Carolina, writes that he has made arrangements with the railroad companies in that State for the survivors under his jurisdiction.

A DESERVED COMPLIMENT.

I cannot forego the pleasure, in this connection, of republishing the subjoined article from the *Platte City (Mo.) Advocate* of March 3—which paper has hoisted at the head of its columns the name of the worthy President of our Association as its candidate for President of the United States. It will be read with interest by our comrades, as showing the antecedents of the worthy gentleman who has served as the leader in the movement in which we are now engaged from the beginning of the agitation.

GEN. DENVER.

The National Democratic Convention has been called to assemble at St. Louis on the 27th day of June next to select candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, and we think the time has now arrived for some expression of opinion by the press of the country as to the most suitable persons to be chosen for these high positions. We therefore to-day give expression to our choice and hoist at our mast head, and give to our fellow citizens of the United States the name of a man well known throughout the West, and greatly beloved by the people of Platte county, where for many years he resided.

Gen. Denver was born near Winchester, Virginia, but removed when quite young to Ohio, where he afterwards married. From Ohio he came to this county where he resided until the breaking out of the Mexican war, when he raised a company in this vicinity having been appointed a Captain by President Polk, and with his company joined the army of Gen. Scott, serving to the end of the war with credit to himself, the entire satisfaction to his officers and men, and greatly beloved by his own company. At the close of the war he returned to this county, where he remained until fired by the desire then so wide spread throughout the West to visit the then new found El Dorado which his own exertions and those of his brave companions had contributed as part of Gen. Scott's army in recently winning from Mexico, and joining a party of adventurous companions found his way with them across the plains to California amid hardships too well understood by our Western people to require description at our hands.

After his arrival in California Gen. Denver was successively State Senator, Secretary of State, and in 1854, was elected to the Congress of the United States.

On the expiration of the term for which he was elected, he was appointed by President Buchanan Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and in 1857, Governor of Kansas Territory, where his satisfactory administration of affairs in that distracted section was so highly appreciated by all parties that on his retirement, a complimentary supper was given him in which all parties heartily joined.

The beautiful city of Denver, the capital of Colorado, then a part of Kansas Territory, was named in honor of this distinguished citizen, and seven other thriving towns bear his name in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and California, attesting his wide spread popularity.

Soon after his retirement from Kansas he returned to California where he remained until the breaking out of the war between the States, when he repaired to Washington, and tendered his services to Mr. Lincoln in behalf of the Union cause and was appointed Brigadier General, and commanded for a time in Kansas, and afterwards commanded the 3d Brigade of General Sherman's division, army of the Tennessee.

During his career in this capacity, no officer of the Federal Army was more remarkable for bravery and coolness, as well as humanity and justice towards those opposed to him. Since the war he has been the steady and earnest advocate of universal amnesty, and the cultivation of the most friendly relation between the sections.

He is now living at Wilmington, Ohio, largely engaged in the honorable pursuit of farming, and is said to be the most reliable and uncompromising "granger" in the whole West.

He is also President of the Mexican Veteran Association, composed of the survivors of the war with Mexico, and is now earnestly engaged with his associates in pressing upon the attention of Congress the urgent necessity of granting to these veteran soldiers now so rapidly passing away, the trifling stipend of pension which many of them so badly need, and all admit they are so justly entitled to.

We say again here is a man of sound record upon whom North and South can unite, and presented, as he is by the West, let him be accepted by all as the olive branch of peace and the harbinger of good will and concord to our now distracted country.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A. M. KENADAY respectfully announces to his friends and the public that he has commenced the business of ATTORNEY FOR THE PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS in the Departments of the Government and before the Committees of Congress.

Having had over six years' experience in one of the Departments as an EXAMINER OF CLAIMS, (from which he resigned in 1874, with an unblemished record for efficiency and fidelity,) he can bring to bear in his new vocation a familiarity with the details of the business of an Attorney that will render him useful to those who do him the honor to entrust their business to his management.

His official connection with the members of the Association of Mexican War Veterans as their first Secretary at Washington, will enable him to be of valuable assistance in the proper presentation of their cases—especially in giving his clients information of the WHEREABOUTS OF SURVIVING COMRADES in order to enable them to prove their identity. Without disparaging the merits of his comrades who propose to enter this line of business on their own account, he confidently asserts that claimants for PENSION, BOUNTY LANDS, EXTRA PAY, QUARTERMASTER'S STORES, &c., &c., cannot have their business more faithfully attended to by any of his competitors.

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